Examples of Research Findings Section: Interview Report

**Exhibit 1:**

Research Findings

During my interview with Ms. Wayland, we discussed many people and experiences that have influenced her decision to pursue a career in physical therapy. In this section, I will discuss three of these influences in chronological order. In this section, I will also explain how each of these influences impacted Ms. Wayland’s education and career journey.

Influence #1: Sports-Related Injury

One experience that first made Ms. Wayland become interested in the field of physical therapy was a leg injury she sustained as a middle school student. At that time, Ms. Wayland was a member of her high school’s track and field team. She had run hurdles and sprints for three years. During her junior year, she became injured during an after-school practice. Ms. Wayland still clearly remembers that day. She said, “I should have stretched better before the practice, but I was in a hurry.” Because she did not stretch properly, Ms. Wayland pulled a ligament in her right leg while jumping one of the hurdles. “I have never been in so much pain,” she described. Immediately, her coach and parents took her to the hospital. She was diagnosed with a torn ligament and had to sit out the rest of the season. “It was a slow and painful recovery,” Ms. Wayland said. Before then, she had not realized how painful sports-related injuries can be or how long the recovery process can take. This experience helped Ms. Wayland realize that there are many people, both athletes and non-athletes, who suffer injuries and need help, especially help from a physical therapist. This was the first time she began to think about physical therapy as a possible career field.

Influence #2: Working with a Physical Therapist

When Ms. Wayland tore the ligament in her leg, part of her recovery included going to physical therapy sessions twice a week. She worked with a therapist to do different stretches while her leg healed. “I still remember my therapist’s name – Becky,” she said. Ms. Wayland said Becky was patient and kind, but also pushed her to do exercises and stretches even when they were painful. As a result of this experience, Ms. Wayland became interested in a career in physical therapy. “I know Becky helped me a lot in my recovery, and I wanted to help other people the same way she helped me,” Ms. Wayland said. Becky became Ms. Wayland’s role model, and she began to research how she might pursue this career.

Influence #3: Favorite Teacher

By the time Ms. Wayland fully recovered from her injury in track, she was beginning her senior year of high school. She decided to take an AP Biology class to learn more about the human body and to prepare herself for applying to physical therapy programs. Her AP Biology teacher became another influential person in her education and career journey….

**Exhibit 2:**

Research Findings

In the following section, I will describe information I learned from my interview with 2nd-grade teacher, Matt Billings. In his interview, Matt described two modes of communication he performs on a daily basis. Each of these communication modes is directed at a different audience and each communication mode is important for his success as an elementary teacher.

Lesson Plans

The first mode of communication that Matt discussed was his daily lesson plans. Because Matt is an elementary teacher, he teaches all core subjects to his class (English, math, science, and social studies). Therefore, he must create a set of lesson plans for each core subject every day. Usually, Matt creates these lesson plans during the weekend and these plans cover an entire week. So, he must put quite a bit of time and effort into making sure he has all the needed materials before the week begins. When I asked Matt who usually reads these lesson plans, I was a little surprised by his answer. I assumed that only Matt would read the lesson plans, since he created them for his own classroom. Instead, Matt said that other teachers and his principal also read his lesson plans. “I have to turn my weekly lesson plans in to my principal by email on every Monday,” Matt explained. “In that email, I also send my plans to the other two second grade teachers in my building.” I asked Matt why he was required to do this. He said, “The other teachers and I have to keep in touch to make sure we’re all teaching the same things to our students. We want to make sure that all the second graders have as close to the same education as possible.” Matt said that the weekly lesson plans are a good way for the teachers to share their teaching ideas and the lesson plans are also a good way to let the principal know what’s happening in all of their classes.

Parent Newsletter

Another type of workplace communication that Matt performs weekly is called a parent newsletter. Matt described this as, “It’s a one-page note I send home to my students’ parents each week. The newsletter lets them know what themese we’re studying in math, English, science and social studies. It also reminds parents of upcoming school events, like Literacy Night or parent/teacher conferences.” Matt said that he enjoys writing this weekly newsletter. “It’s a way for me to keep in touch with parents in a positive way,” he explained. Because the audience for this communication is parents, Matt feels he has to be very careful when creating it. “I have to double-check and make sure I don’t make spelling mistakes or anything else on it,” he said. “I don’t want to make a mistake and look stupid!”

This year, Matt has not been very creative with his newsletters. He explained, “I just use clip art to decorate it, that’s all.” But, Matt is thinking that next year he might try to add other visual elements, such as photographs of students in his classroom, on the playground, or participating in other school events. “I think the photos would be a good addition,” he said. “It would be fun to show parents pictures of their kids doing science experiments or playing kickball in gym.” Matt also hopes to start a new Student of the Week Award program in his class. In this program, he will choose a student to interview and write a profile article of that student in the weekly newsletter. For Matt, the newsletter seems to be an important means for communicating with parents and reporting on important events and students from his classroom.